

Half term Bird Encounters

During this half term, I got home to find a bird creating a nest at the top of the trees in my back garden, picture down below, taken personally by me. During the 3 weeks I would watch as the father was guarding the nest, picking new sticks for the nest and little leaves, I put a bird feeder in the garden and some water, he would often collect both and bring it up to the top of the tree. I am not sure what kind of bird it was however the neck was longer than the body, almost looking like a duck.



What Bird Am I Quiz?

You're a CHAFFINCH You're normally heard before you're seen, as you're quite loud! You save your best finery for the breeding season, to impress the opposite sex. You feast on insects and seeds, and you're happiest in a nice coniferous woodland.

They are very boisterous and bold characters, and the song ("trup") is given by a bird intending to take flight. It causes the other birds to prepare for flight and to fly. In spring a special use of the flight call by females seeking mates, attracts males to them.



Also, during half term I noticed many different birds in my garden, the most common being the song thrush, which I believe to have the most vibrant and colourful song, which has a repeated musical phrasing that is frequently referred to in English Literature poetry. There is a large population decline in song thrushes and they are slowly dying out, also due to their short-lived lives- approx. 3 years. As birds their song is part of the breeding cycle, most birds sing in the breeding season. This means that birds will start in late January and stop in July. The increasing daylight increases their hormone levels, which creates the response of singing.

I attempted to find a way to find a way to attract these birds closer so I could get a picture of them, I left out raisins for them as I found after a bit of research that they can smell the sweetness of the raisins, however I never got a chance to photograph it.

FUN FACT: Song thrushes will eat all kinds of food, but earthworms make up a large part of their diet. When the ground becomes too hard to get at them, song thrushes will eat snails instead. To get at the meat inside, they take the shell and crack it open by banging it against a stone 'anvil'. This behaviour is unique to these birds.

